

House Bill 27
January 29, 2013
Presented by Jim Kropp
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

Mr. Chairperson and committee members, I am Jim Kropp, Chief of Law Enforcement of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). I am here in opposition to House Bill 27.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks opposes HB 27 for two reasons. First, this bill creates a situation where a hunter who was out during the general rifle, or any other big game season, would literally have to carry two rifles were he or she to hunt wolves and lions at the same time as hunting big game. This is because it is currently illegal to hunt big game with a suppressed firearm.

Second, the use of silenced weapons has been proposed during the last two legislative sessions and failed both times. FWP as well as many sportsman's organizations opposed those efforts in the past and still does. The bill is not helpful for the future of hunting and causes concern for many landowners as well as our field wardens.

Thank you.